

## The failed mediation: translating doping

Contrary to the traditional caveat that legal discourse is perceived as an area of human activity where every attempt is made to speak or write precisely, clearly and unambiguously (Gražytė and Maskaliūnienė 2009), texts that involve a legal or institutional take on performance-enhancing drugs likely qualify for the label 'dogbody' for translation practice because the translator is involved at several levels.

While translating texts on doping, the translator is put in an awkward position as a solid scientific background in the substances involved is needed, as well as in the medical consequences and legal sensitivities (Declercq 2012). Use of doping substances by athletes poses serious public health hazards (EU White Paper 52011DC0012, 2011) and the legal frameworks in which anti-doping actions take place are fragmented and complicated by the many levels of anti-doping authority involved. With texts on performance-enhancing drugs, translators will as well be confronted by a mixture of styles and registers ranging from the legalese of the professional lawyers and the everyday language of the witnesses and litigants to the slang of the athletes and the often extremely technical jargon of the reports and testimonies (Alcaraz 2002).

If anti-doping is in dire need for a unified direction (Petróczi 2016), then translators would warmly embrace a coherent anti-doping message. This paper examines to which extent translating texts on doping is moving that message away from the world of official terminology in which English prevails and keep a close proximity with local associations and athletes or in fact widens the gap between athletes and anti-doping authority.

## References

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## Bio

Christophe Declercq is a senior lecturer in translation at University College London and a lecturer in translation at KU Leuven. As a freelance translator he translator for more than 10 years for Golazo on the one hand and various renowned cyclists on the other hand. On the subject of the (in)translatibility of texts on doping he spoke at Imperial College London (2006), the 2009 Portsmouth Conference (The Translator as Writer), the University of Exeter (2012), the Sport and Translation Conference (Bristol, 2014), and at Roehampton University (2014). He published on the subject with *The Linguist* (IOL, 2012).